

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (canceled)

Claim 2. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to Claim 1, wherein the cap or casing is a rigid form shaped to fit over the projecting parts of the instrumentation.

Claim 3. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to Claim 1, wherein the cap or casing is a rigid three-dimensional oval or parallelepiped for fitting over the projecting parts of the instrumentation.

Claim 4. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to Claim 1, wherein the fastener portion includes a lower frame of the cap or casing provided with an aperture for the inserting the instrumentation having a toothed edge for locking the cap or casing onto parts of the instrumentation where installed adjacent the bone.

Claim 5. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to Claim 4, wherein the instrumentation includes pedicles installed into the bone, and the toothed edge of the lower frame has teeth spacings for locking onto the pedicles.

Claim 6. (previously amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 21, further comprising sutures provided in the fastener portion, wherein the fastener portion includes the sutures for attachment to adjacent parts of the instrumentation or to adjacent bone areas or tissues.

Claim 7. (previously amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 21, wherein the fastener portion includes a lower frame of the cap or casing provided with an open, box-like aperture for the placement over the instrumentation.

Claim 8. (previously amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 21, wherein the cap or casing is a pliable or flexible pouch.

Claim 9. (previously amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 8, wherein the fastener portion of said pliable or flexible pouch comprises one or more drawstrings for cinching the lower edge of the pouch opening around the projecting parts of the instrumentation mounted into or fastened to the bone.

Claim 10. (previously amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 21, wherein the cap or casing is a pliable or flexible sheath.

Claim 11. (previously amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 10, wherein the fastener portion comprises a lower cinch ring provided with openings therein and a number of suture strings for threading through said cinch ring for tightening the cap vertically down to the cinch ring over the instrumentation.

Claim 12. (previously amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 11, wherein the lower cinch ring is a tubular form having one or more drawstrings therein for tightening the cover or shield circumferentially (horizontally) around the instrumentation.

Claim 13. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 1, wherein the cap or casing has displaceable parts for adjustment of its length, width, or height snugly around the instrumentation.

Claim 14. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 13, wherein the displaceable parts of the cap or casing are formed with slidable panels.

Claim 15. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 13, wherein the displaceable parts of the cap or casing are formed with pleats.

Claim 16. (withdrawn) A method for preventing ingrowth and protecting surrounding soft tissue from instrumentation installed in a bone comprising: encapsulating projecting parts of instrumentation installed in a bone in a hollow cap or casing portion which is dimensioned to be placed over and fit snugly around the instrumentation; and fastening the cap or casing using a fastener portion provided at a lower edge of the cap or casing for securing it to adjacent bone areas or tissues or to parts of the instrumentation where it is installed in the bone.

Claim 17. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 16, wherein the cap or casing is a rigid three-dimensional form, and the fastener portion includes a lower frame of the cap or casing.

Claim 18. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 16, wherein the cap or casing is a flexible or pliable pouch, and the fastener portion includes one or more drawstrings.

Claim 19. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 16, wherein the cap or casing is a flexible or pliable sheath, and the fastener portion includes a cinch ring having suture strings tied to a lower edge of the sheath threaded there through.

Claim 20. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 16, wherein the fastener portion includes sutures attached to a lower edge of the cap or casing.

Claim 21. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield capable of being permanently installed ~~in bone~~ over the instrumentation during bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure comprising:

a hollow cap or casing pouch adapted for permanent installation or for removal in a subsequent surgical procedure and which is dimensioned to be placed over and to encapsulate the projecting parts of the instrumentation which has been installed in the bone, and

a fastener portion provided at a lower edge of the cap or casing pouch for securing said cap or casing to adjacent bone areas or tissue or to parts of the instrumentation where the instrumentation has been installed in the bone, wherein said hollow cap or casing pouch provides a mechanical barrier for preventing ingrowth of bone or fibrous tissue into the interstices of the instrumentation.

Claim 22. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 21 wherein said hollow cap or casing pouch comprises ~~at least~~ one member selected from the group consisting of GoreTex™, Dacron™ and polyurethane.